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DECEMBER 5, 1972  
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HFROM: PARIS  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 2111, DECEMBER 5, 9 P.M.SENT DEPARTMENT 2111, REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 179, LONDON 433,  
MOSCOW 110, BERLIN 44.MOST RECENT FRENCH THINKING ON TALKS CONCERNING BERLIN  
IS AS FOLLOWS, ACCORDING TO JURGENSEN:

1. EXPERTS OF FRANCE, US, UK AND FEDREP WILL MEET IN PARIS DECEMBER 13 FOR INITIAL DISCUSSIONS. EXPERTS ALSO COULD MEET ON DECEMBER 14 IF NECESSARY. TASK OF EXPERTS WOULD BE TO PREPARE QUESTIONS CONCERNING BERLIN PROBLEM FOR ATTENTION OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHO WOULD MEET ON AFTERNOON DECEMBER 16. FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD NOT APPROVE ANY DRAFT REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE BUT WOULD GIVE DIRECTIVES FOR SUBSEQUENT PREPARATION OF REPLY.
2. IN ADDITION TO QUADRIPARTITE MEETING DECEMBER 16, FOREIGN MINISTERS OF US, UK, FRANCE PRESUMABLY WOULD WISH TO HAVE TRI-PARTITE DISCUSSION WHILE IN PARIS ON BERLIN PROBLEM. THIS COULD TAKE PLACE AT COUVE'S DINNER DECEMBER 14.
3. FRENCH HAVE NO OBJECTION TO PARTICIPATION OF FEDREP REPRESENTATIVES IN DRAFTING REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE. HOWEVER, COUVE STILL BELIEVES IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF QUADRIPARTITE DRAFTING GROUP MEET SOME PLACE OTHER THAN BONN. HE APPARENTLY FEELS THAT MEETINGS IN PARIS, LONDON OR WASHINGTON WOULD UNDERLINE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THREE POWERS IN GERMAN QUESTION.
4. FRENCH EXPERTS FOR TALKS ON BERLIN AT MEETINGS DECEMBER 13-14 WILL BE LALOY AND JURGENSEN.

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